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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## MBC Annual Meeting Schedule

### Tuesday Morning First Session October 31, 2006

8:25	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC Jackson
8:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Clarence Cooper
	Congregational Praise	Lavon Gray
	Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11	Russell Bush
		Served as MBC President 1963-1964
	Prayer	Earl Kelly
		Served as MBC President 1965-1966
8:45	Organization of the Convention	Clarence Cooper
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	Gary Shows
	Recognition of Tellers and Credentials Committee	Clarence Cooper
	Welcome from FBC, Jackson	Stan Buckley
8:55	Congregational Praise	Barry Worrell
9:00	Bible Treasure	Jim Shaddix
9:25	Report of Committee on Committees	Dan Robertson
9:30	Presentation of Resolutions	
9:35	Block of the President	Gayle Alexander
10:00	Congregational Praise	Barry Worrell
10:05	Christian Action Commission Report	Jimmy Porter
		Served as MBC President 1996-1997
10:15	Baptist Children's Village Report	Rory Lee
10:25	Convention Board Report	Mickey Delymple
10:35	Congregational Praise	Barry Worrell
10:45	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir
		Emmanuel Baptist Church, Greenville
11:00	President's Address	Clarence Cooper
11:30	Benediction	Dean Register
		Served as MBC President 1998-1999



### Tuesday Afternoon, Second Session October 31, 2006

1:30	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
1:35	Sounding of the Gavel	Clarence Cooper
	Congregational Praise	Ken Nuss
	Scripture Reading: Matthew 23:34-49	John McCall
		Served as MBC President 1969-1970
	Prayer	Rex Yancy
		Served as MBC President 1994-1995
1:45	Bible Treasure	Jim Shaddix
2:10	Results of Election of President	Clarence Cooper
2:15	Testimony	Joel Medina
2:30	Congregational Praise	Ken Nuss
2:35	Business Session	Clarence Cooper
	Presentation of 2007 Budget	Scott Wiggers
	Election of Convention Officers	Clarence Cooper
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:05	Report of Board of Ministerial Education	Gary Shows
3:15	Report of Conference Ministry Study Committee	Larry Otis
3:25	Mississippi Baptist Foundation	Daniel Hall
3:35	Business Session	Clarence Cooper
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:55	Congregational Praise	Ken Nuss
4:00	Choral Praise	Devotion Ensemble, FBC, Gulfport
4:15	Convention Session	Chuck Register
4:45	Benediction	Frank Pollard
		Served as MBC President 2002-2003

### Tuesday Night, Third Session October 31, 2006

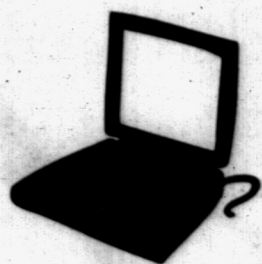
6:30	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
6:40	Sounding of Gavel	Clarence Cooper
	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
	Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-8	Bill Causey
		Served as MBC President 1979-1980
	Prayer	Jim Yates
		Served as MBC President 1982-1983
6:50	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
6:55	Final Presentation of Resolutions	
7:00	Testimony	Sharon Fanning
7:15	Bible Treasure	Jim Shaddix
7:40	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
7:45	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:55	Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Emphasis	Jim Petral
		Served as MBC President 1988-89
8:30	Benediction	Kenneth McGee
		Served as MBC President 2000-2001

### Wednesday Morning, Fourth Session November 1, 2006

8:25	Prelude	Blue Mountain College Chorale
8:35	Sounding of the Gavel	Joel Medina
8:40	Congregational Praise	Dennis Dugg
	Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:34-40	Charles H. Hays
		Served as MBC President 1984-1985

(cont'd on page 9)





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are subject to editing.

# Picture of the Year

This is the big weekend for members of Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga. It's premiere time for Facing the Giants, the outstanding Christian motion picture produced by the Georgia Baptist church with nary a Hollywood insider to be found anywhere around.

The brainchild of a group of Georgia Baptist ministers, Facing the Giants tells the fictional story of Grant Taylor, a high school football coach who has never had a winning season. Combined with pressures in his personal life and yet another losing team, Taylor turns to God in the midst of his troubles.

A subsidiary of Sony Pictures jumped at the opportunity to get involved with the film. With Sony on board, theaters were quick to pick it up and it will open this weekend on more than 450 screens.

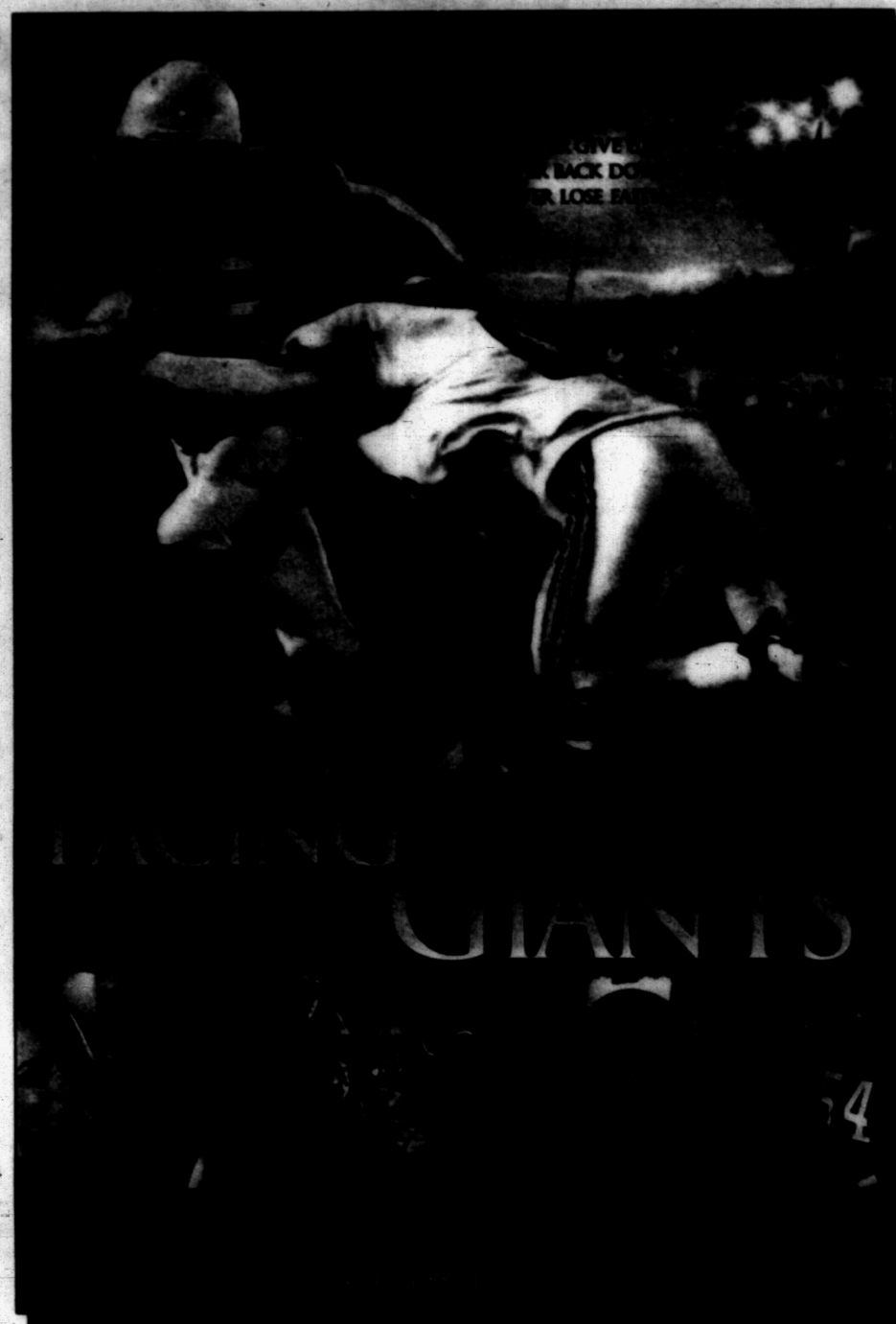
University of Georgia football head coach Mark Richt, a devout Christian known for his powerful public testimony, was so impressed with the script that he made time in his busy schedule to put in a cameo appearance. An "A-List" of Christian recording artists contributed the soundtrack.

Produced on a classic shoestring budget with real-life locations used as movie sets and a wardrobe budget consisting of the clothing the volunteer actors could provide for themselves, Facing the Giants is poised to teach Hollywood another painful lesson about movie making, to wit: it doesn't take \$200,000,000, a stable of the best-known performers in the world, and an R rating to make a film that is moving, inspiring, witty, challenging, and fulfilling.

This is truly a movie every Christian should see, and everyone should see it on opening weekend. With its thoroughly Christian content, it surely won't be nominated for any Academy Awards, but it's our Picture of the Year.

Don't pass it up.

In Mississippi, Facing the Giants will show at Grandview 17 in Madison, Tinseltown in Pearl, DeSoto 16 in Southaven, and Movies 8 in Tupelo. Check with local theaters for show times. For more information on the movie and to view trailers, visit [www.facingthegiants.com](http://www.facingthegiants.com).



In 1610, Galileo Galilei made the first European observations of sunspots. Sunspots are relatively cool areas on the Sun that appear as dark blotches. Who would think the brilliance of the sun contains dark blotches?

Jesus referred to His church as "the light of the world." Sometimes the church experiences "sunspots" or "dark blotches." Such is the case with the Iuka Baptist Church. This lighthouse for Jesus is experiencing "sunspots" due to recent news reports falsely accusing the church of following Rick Warren's Purpose Driven model.

This great church has experienced phenomenal growth over the past few years. Growth makes adjustments necessary. In January, 2004 the church voted 195-7 to begin a second morning worship on a three-month trial basis to meet space needs in the sanctuary. Easter Sunday, April 11 was the day it began. The church voted in July, 2004 to continue the second worship service by a vote of 333-23. This reflects a growth rate of 76% in a six-month period!

Iuka Church has an awesome choir that leads during the 11:00 service. Choir members were polled in the begin-

## GUEST OPINION:

### Iuka Church and 'sunspots'

By Jim Holcomb, pastor  
Belden Church, Belden

ning to see who would be willing to attend both services. Some agreed to, others did not. Instead of breaking up the dynamic of the choir the decision was made to form a seven member ensemble to lead the 8:30 service. They lead worship blending the great hymns of old and popular praise choruses. The only accompanying instrument is the piano.

Assimilation of the new members took place through Sunday School. Adjustments were made using Arthur Flake's formula to accommodate this need. In 1927, Arthur Flake challenged Baptists to build churches using his five laws of Sunday School. This took place 68 years before Warren's work was published.

A Long Range Planning Committee (LRP) was later commissioned by the church. The Chairman of the committee used Truman Brown's manual, Planning for the Next Five Years in a Southern Baptist Church, as a resource. Brown's work was published in 1989, six years before Warren's work. One of the first recommendations Brown encourages is for the church to have a clear mission statement. The LRP studied this issue, developed a mission statement, and brought it to the church for approval.

Any church that is reaching out to the lost and seeing them come to saving faith in Christ will have to make adjustments. Adjustments do not mean that a church is following Warren's

model as the aforementioned examples prove. This is not to say there is anything wrong with Rick Warren's book, The Purpose Driven Church. His book reveals his heart to reach a lost and dying world with the Gospel of Christ. His work received high recommendations by great Southern Baptist leaders of yesterday and today — men like W.A. Criswell, Adrian Rogers, Jack Graham, Thom Rainer, O.S. Hawkins, Jerry Sutton, Ronnie Floyd, Ike Reighard, to name a few.

A church that faithfully serves Jesus will face opposition. They will have their critics. Jesus said, "Woe unto you when men speak well of you!" In spite of Jesus' words, it still hurts when men do not speak well. This is where Iuka Church is for now. They are a shining lighthouse for the Gospel. The news media have sadly misrepresented them.

Iuka Church is experiencing "sunspots." Our prayer needs to be that these temporary "sunspots" do not allow them to become "cool spots." May they continue in the power, grace, and mercy of the Lord Jesus seeing their community won to saving faith.

Editor's note: Holcomb is former pastor of Iuka Church.



# Despite appeals, Christians executed in Indonesia

**PALU, Indonesia (BP)** — Three Catholics accused of murdering a 2000 riot between Muslims and Christians in Indonesia were executed by firing squad at an undisclosed location in the island nation's Central Sulawesi province on Sept. 22, the Jakarta Post reported.

Government sources said Fabrianus Tibo, Dominggus da Silva, and Marinus Riwu had admitted their roles in religious violence, but doubt has surfaced in both Christian and Muslim circles about their guilt. Even Indonesia's former president, Abdurrahman Wahid, called for a stay of execution the day before the death sentences were carried out, the newspaper reported.

Wahid said the executions were "against Islam," but that Attorney General Abdurrahman Saleh insisted on moving forward with the executions "because he doesn't understand religion."

"In hadis (Muslim tradition), if there is doubt, in this case if the prosecutor has any doubt, don't do it," Wahid said. "It's just that the attorney general did not pay attention to religion."

The men, called "Christian militants" by the paper, were the only individuals executed in a long-term conflict that ran from 1998 to 2002 between Muslims and Christians in the volatile Poso area of the Sulawesi province. Government sources previously cited the number of Muslim dead in the 2000 riot the men allegedly caused at near 1,000, but AsiaNews and the Jakarta Post put the number between 70-200.

In addition to claiming that Tibo, da Silva, and Riwu did not organize the violence against Muslims, advocates for the men protested the fact that few Muslims were charged with any offenses during the fighting that took place between the two groups from 1998-02.

More than 10,000 Christians in Indonesia died at the hands of Muslims during the conflict, according to International Christian Concern (ICC), a Christian human rights organization based in Washington, D.C.

Jeremy Sewell, a policy analyst with ICC, said "justice had once again been denied to Christians in Indonesia." He said the Catholics had been executed to placate Muslim anger over the death sentences handed down to three members of the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah who were involved in a terrorist bombing in Bali in October 2002.

"These men were sacrificed as scape-goats so that the Indonesian government could wash their hands and walk away from the Poso conflict of 1998 to 2003," Sewell said. "If Indonesia really wants to show the world they value truth, they should reopen the investigation into this conflict and find all those responsible for the violence."

Scott Flipse, East Asia director with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, also said there needs to be an investigation of what happened in the area. Flipse said a number of groups, including Indonesian military officers and jihadists from Java,

may have been involved in the violence.

"There needs to be some account of what happened and the truth needs to be brought out and justice served," Flipse said. "The search for accountability needs to be taken wherever it leads."

The ICC lobbied for a postponement of the executions in order for the men to force a final appeal through the Indonesian courts. Lawyers for Tibo, da Silva, and Riwu promised to hand over new evidence that would lead to the real masterminds of the violence, but that appeal was rejected by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

"I really see this as an attempt by the Indonesia government to show the world they are committed to justice without doing the hard work that justice requires," Sewell said.

In a final statement, made through family members, Tibo said he was praying that his family would be "able to provide for themselves and forgive me for not being with them all these years," AsiaNews reported.

Riwu said he and the others were the victims of a "political plot" to cover the names of the men responsible for organizing the violence, which ICC contends were actually Muslim.

"The law is against us," said da Silva. "For years we have tried to tell the truth but they silenced us."

The men originally had been scheduled for execution on Aug. 12, but the Vatican, international human rights organizations, and the European Union protested the convictions, with ICC citing inequities in the Indonesian justice system between Muslims and Christians as one reason for the need of a new trial.

Then-Attorney General Mohammad Yahya Sibe stayed the executions in August under international pressure, but he and the area police chief were both relieved of their duties after the decision.

The prisoners received last rites several days before the execution, but the government denied them a funeral mass at a Catholic church near Petobo Prison, Jimmy Tumbelaka, the men's parish priest, told AsiaNews. They also denied them a traditional Catholic funeral procession.

According to the priest, the decision violates the nation's law which grants condemned prisoners the right to have their final wishes carried out.

Muslim violence against Christians has escalated in the past decade in the island nation, with little response from the authorities when Christians have been killed. During the Poso conflict, more than 1,000 churches and 80,000 Christian homes were burned. Targeted killings of Christians in the area have continued.

In 2005, three Christian school girls were abducted as they walked from school and beheaded. The girls' heads were placed on a Christian church doorstep some distance away, indicating that the violence was religiously motivated.

Sewell said the "investigation" of the deaths was a "perfect example of the government's unwillingness to deal with the problem of violence against Christians."

"After international attention was brought to the case about the murdered girls, six or seven men were arrested, but when the attention died down, they were released. No one has been charged since then that we know of."

## 'Gay friendly' companies

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)** — A record number of U.S. companies — including such big names as AT&T, Coca-Cola, Ford, Kraft, and Walgreens — received perfect scores this year for being "gay friendly" according to an annual report by the nation's largest homosexual activist organization. The report, released Sept. 19 by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), said that 138 of the 446 major American companies it surveyed achieved a perfect score of 100 — an increase from last year, when 101 companies made the list. (A complete list of the companies that achieved a perfect score can be viewed at <http://www.sbc Baptist Press.org/bpnews.asp?ID=24030>). Companies apparently are fighting to get on the list. HRC officials say some companies contacted them ahead of time to make sure they knew this year's requirements. According to HRC President Joe Solmonese, companies are "actively competing to be ranked the most inclusive and fair-minded." HRC calls the report the Corporate Equality Index. "They're trying to buy the loyalty of gays and lesbians who have more disposable income than the average American family," Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth, a conservative organization that counters the homosexual agenda, told Baptist Press. "... It's not that every gay and lesbian is wealthy. But just because of the lack of children and because of two incomes, they have a lot of money to spend." Companies typically say their policies are in place so that they can stay competitive in the business market and also keep their homosexual employees happy. LaBarbera, though, said the companies should be asking other questions. "What about the happiness of your faith-based employees?" he asked. "When you require diversity sessions that basically undermine their belief system? When you give to groups that are anti-Christian or have a disturbing strategy of demonizing Christians."



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## Looking back

10 years ago

A check for \$21,000 was presented by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sept. 25 to Beacon Church, Yazoo City, after the church was destroyed by arson.

20 years ago

Jessie White, retired head of the Biological Sciences Department at Delta State University in Cleveland, donates a tract of land adjoining the Delta State BSU in memory of his late wife, Minnie Patton White.

60 years ago

Mississippi's first-ever Baptist State Music Convention opens at First Church, Jackson. The convention is the long-held dream of Luther A. Harrison, the first music director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention.





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with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my  
sins and freedom from eternal  
death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose  
from the grave to forgive my  
sins and to restore my rela-  
tionship with you.  
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus  
Christ into my life. From this  
time on, I want to live in a lov-  
ing relationship with Him. (*I  
receive Christ as my Savior  
and Lord.*)

*"But as many as received him,  
to them he gave the right to become  
children of God, even to those who  
believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for  
Jesus Christ today, contact a  
local Baptist church for spiritu-  
al guidance.*

#### GROWING IN THE LORD

In June, the Southeastern Bodybuilding Championship was held in Jackson, Mississippi. I was not a contestant and I did not attend the contest, but I was listening to an interview with one of the national leaders in bodybuilding and it was a fascinating thing. Jay Cutler has been runner-up to the national winner for the last four years. He has yet to win the top prize. Having seen him on television it is hard to imagine what the fellow looked like that beat him.

In the interview with this 5 ft. 9 inch, 285-pound massive bodybuilder, they talked to him about all of the various aspects of bodybuilding in order to look like he looks. You know the look. His rippled muscles from jaw to toe are unbelievable. He talked about how long he trained each day, the importance of the diet that he eats, and the importance of flexibility of this mass of muscles. You have to stay nimble. He talked about growing and maturing. I was thinking about how the Lord has called us into a walk with Him that requires growing, maturing, and becoming our best. Our growth requires training, the right diet, and flexibility. Those things I can understand, but the bodybuilder emphasized two things that peaked my interest and deepened my understanding.

The first thing that was fascinating to me was how much time he spent on deep muscle training, not just the surface bulge that you can see on an arm or chest but deep down in the strand and fibers of the muscle. You can actually train and build the outer



## Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

part of the muscle without reaching all of the way to the inner part. I am convinced that many times in our spiritual development that is what happens. Sometimes a person will come to know the Lord and begin to grow and develop. All of a sudden you recognize how faithful they are, how many verses they have learned, what a dramatic change is taking place in their life, and that is all good, right, and glorious. If that person is not careful, they will miss out on allowing those truths and spiritual applications to reach deeper and deeper within the muscle of their soul. I am afraid that sometimes our faith like some of these bodybuilders' muscles is only external fluff for show.

The problem is when the tough times come, the full range of strength of the muscle is needed, and when times are the most difficult we are not able to stand, compete, or continue. Maybe that is what we are seeing in the scripture by a man, who was called Demus. Apparently, he was a dedicated follower of Jesus, and he became a mission partner with the Apostle Paul. But life was not easy for the missionary, and the day came when the scripture would reflect what

Paul saw happen to Demus in these words: "For Demus hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (II Tim 4:10).

Unless your muscles are strengthened and the deep part of your muscles are challenged and improved, you may collapse under the weight of the furious onslaught of disagreement and despair that can touch your faith. The other thing that so intrigued me was the reply Jay Cutler gave to this question: "What is the one thing that is most important if a person wants to be a champion bodybuilder?" His reply was, "It is time and consistent, ongoing commitment to the training, the discipline, and the growth that makes the difference. It will not and it cannot happen instantaneous."

Now folks sometimes we forget that truth, and we actually believe that someone can go from new birth to the status of a strong, spiritual giant overnight. It is not possible. There are some things that only strengthen with time as application of truth is made to life and life faces testing. It is a fact that there is too much to ingest and digest. Spiritually new cells, new tissue, new weight, new strength, and

new endurance are put in place gradually and ever so slowly.

There is something wonderful and beautiful about daylilies. They spring-up and the blooms pop out, but at the close of the day it is all over. It was Jesus who challenged His early followers by saying, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me daily" (Luke 9:23). Day by day following in the steps of Jesus, listening to His words, and absorbing what He has said to us into the fiber of our spiritual desires, the growth takes place, but it is ever so slowly and solidly.

I suppose it is at this point spiritually that many of us get frustrated, discouraged, impatient, and become like the 13 year old who wants to get his driver's license, the 14 year old girl who wants to start dating, or the 16 year old that feels that they ought to be totally on their own and not responsible to anyone. There is a knowledge level that seems to be adequate but a maturity or responsibility level that may not be at the same place. All of us are very capable of acting in immature ways. I have noticed through the years that the people who have the strength deep within their muscles and have walked faithfully over time are the ones who are the real winners when it comes to spiritual bodybuilding. Take the time today, tomorrow, and in the days ahead and let God reach deeper and deeper in your spiritual fiber to strengthen and shape you.

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#### Mississippi Pastor to Host

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# ALS claims life of WCU President Kennedy

Larry Wells Kennedy, president of Baptist-affiliated William Carey University (WCU) in Hattiesburg, died early on the morning of September 21 from complications of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

A memorial service for Kennedy, age 64, was held on September 23 in the Thomas Fine Arts building auditorium on the WCU main campus in Hattiesburg.

Kennedy was born on January 13, 1942 in Ville Platte, La., the only son of Wells Earnest Kennedy and Cecilia Johnson Kennedy. He grew up in Pensacola, Fla., where he graduated from Escambia High School. He received a history degree from Baptist-affiliated Louisiana College in Pineville, where he attended on a forensics scholarship. Other degrees he earned include a Masters of Theology degree from New Orleans Seminary, and Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in history from Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Kennedy pastored churches in Mississippi until 1990. During these years, he served in various denominational roles for the Mississippi Baptist Convention including membership on the Executive Committee and the Education Commission. He also served on the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for eight years.

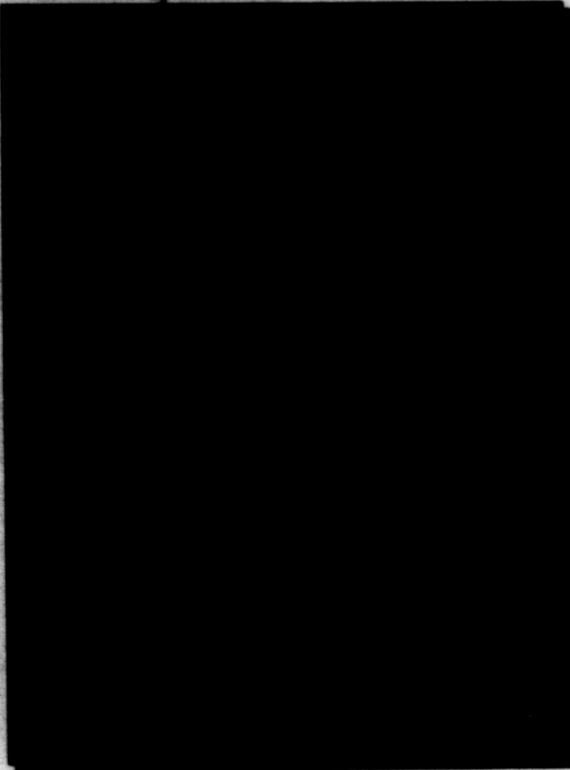
Broadman Press published two of his books, *Down with Anxiety*, and *God's Answers to Human Dilemmas*. He also contributed articles to various publications.

In 1991, Kennedy began his tenure at William Carey University (then known as William Carey College). From 1991-98, he was Professor of Religion; Dean, Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies; and Vice-President of Church Relations. From October 1997-August 1998 he served as interim resident. On August 6, 1998, he was named president and chief executive officer of the school, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Under Kennedy's leadership, a mission statement was adopted emphasizing the University's commitment to educating students in "scholarship, leadership, and service." Enrollment grew from 1,980 to 3,000. New programs and degrees were added, and accreditation was reaffirmed for ten years.

Numerous construction and renovation projects were completed during Kennedy's tenure, totaling more than \$22 million. Of special significance is the payment of the university debt of \$7.3 million ten months ahead of schedule. The University is debt-free as it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2006.

In Hattiesburg, Kennedy served as a board member of the United Way and of BancorpSouth. In 2004, he received the Hattiesburg Hub Award for his outstanding contributions to the community, commitment to excellence, and dedication to public



Kennedy

service. In 2005, Kennedy was named Executive of the Year by the Sales and Marketing Executives of Hattiesburg.

In February 2006, business and civic leaders in Hattiesburg honored Kennedy at a Celebration of Leadership in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the revitalization and progress of the University.

"For me, the death of Dr. Larry Kennedy is not only the passing of a college president, the loss of an outstanding leader, or the departure of a gifted preacher, teacher, and pastor, but it is the home going of a dear friend," said Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"His tenure as president of William Carey University is a remarkable story of accomplishments in the face of impossibilities. He not only knew William Carey's famous words, 'Expect great things from God... attempt great things for God,' he embraced and implemented them."

"Larry Kennedy lived as he died and died as he lived — with courage, dignity, and an unwavering faith. Our love and prayers continue to be with his wife and children who have, with grace and

strength, walked this journey with him," Futral said. "Dr. Larry Kennedy provided exceptional leadership at William Carey University at a critical time in the life of the institution," said Bettye Rogers Coward, president of Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, which is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. "He has been an inspiration to other leaders who face challenges at the institutions they lead. He will be remembered as a servant leader with passion for and commitment to Kingdom's work. It has been a privilege to call him 'friend' and 'colleague.'"

"Dr. Larry Kennedy has left a legacy of remarkable leadership at William Carey University. He led the university to become debt-free while beautifying the campuses and growing the enrollment," said Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College in Clinton, also affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. "Mississippi Baptists have lost a dedicated servant in Christian higher education. Our hearts are saddened, and our prayers are with his family and the William Carey University family."

Survivors include wife Sarah Johnson Kennedy; son Stephen Kennedy of Jackson; son Scott Kennedy of Missoula, Mt.; stepson Kyle Robertson of Laurel; parents Wells Earnest Kennedy and Cecilia Johnson Kennedy of Pensacola; and sister Toni Perlman of Peachtree City, Ga.

## Bibliocipher

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DMG XBNWN NDCC  
ZMSB SIW EWBEVW,  
LWDY UW MBS, NSDMC  
NSCVV, DMG NWW SIW  
NDVODSCBM BL SIW  
VBYG, PICKI IW PCVV  
NIWP SB UBZ SBGDU;  
LBY SIW WHUESCDMN  
PIBX UW IDOW NWW  
SBGDU, UW NIDVV NWW  
SIWX DHDCM MB XBYW  
LBY WOWY.

WTBGZN LBZYSWWM:

SICYSWWM

Clue: Z = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Fifty-Two:Six.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth Bible Drillers, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale



2. Recognition of Graduates, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale



3. Deacon Ordination, Antioch Church, Brandon



4. GAs and RAs Award Ceremony, First Church, Long Beach



### MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown, front row, are Kathleen Tillman and Savannah Brown; back row, Jeb Williamson, Chandler Croom, and Jacob Havard.

2. Rocky Creek, Lucedale, recognized 15 high school graduates on May 14. A reception was held in their honor that night.

3. Antioch Church, Brandon, ordained Nathan Patrick as deacon Sept. 10. Shown are Stewart, Amanda Patrick, Peyton Patrick, and pastor Gayden Harrell.

4. The GAs and RAs of First Church, Long Beach, recently held an awards ceremony. The children had been meeting in school rooms in spite of having lost their church to Katrina.

5. Children in Action of Beulah Church, Newton County, celebrated Christmas in August by collecting needed items for a missionary.

6. McCool Church, McCool, ordained Glenn Deason as deacon Sept. 3. Shown are Bobby Waggoner, Lorie Deason, Deason (holding daughter Lilia Karis), and interim pastor Jim Ray.

7. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, ordained Tim Cooper, Randy Allen, and Russell Ray as deacons Sept. 17. Shown are pastor Jeff Floyd, Cooper, Allen, and Ray.

8. Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, recently ordained Leo Cavallo and Dennis Weaver as deacons. Shown are Christie Cavallo, Cavallo, pastor Jim Collier, Weaver, and Janice Weaver.

9. First Church, Jackson, is hosting Grief Share, Mondays, 6-8 p.m. through Nov. 13. It is a weekly seminar and support group for people grieving the death of someone close to them. Call (601) 949-1907 for information.



5. Children in Action, Beulah Church, Newton County



6. Deacon Ordination, McCool Church, McCool



7. Deacon Ordination, Calvary Church, Oak Grove



8. Deacon Ordination, Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale



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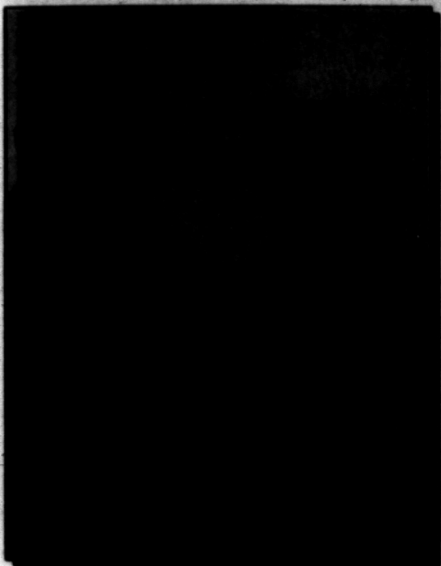
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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Wanker Recognized, Glendale Church, Leland



10. Perfect Attendance, Glendale Church, Leland

10. Glendale Church, Leland, recognized Wayne Wanker for 32 years of service as Tape Ministry Coordinator, and Matthew Adams for four years of perfect attendance in Discipleship Training. Dick Hill, pastor.

11. Union Church, Brookhaven, held RA recognition Aug. 27. Shown are Brady Crane, Steven Jenkins, and Chase Crane.

12. Bethesda Church, Terry, is hosting a harvest festival Oct. 28, 4-8 p.m., including games, candy, cakewalk, toywalk, costume contest, hotdogs, and hamburgers. For more information, call (601) 878-5141.

13. Area 8 GA Mission Madness will be held Nov. 4, First Church, Ellisville. Registration, 9 a.m.; program, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. GAs

are asked to bring a sack lunch and \$3 for materials. Drinks are provided. Call (601)297-9777 or (601)794-8826 for information.

14. Spring Hill Church, Waterford, ordained Ray Minor as deacon Aug. 27. Shown are pastor Bobby McKay, Margie Minor, and Bart Garner.

15. First Church, Potts Camp, ordained Andy Roe on April 2 to the Gospel ministry. Shown are Jim Buchanan and Roe.

16. Raymond Road Church, Jackson, recognizes its Bible drillers attending camp at Central Hills: Stephanie Smith, Sarah Hardin, Sha Killen, Brandon Eady, Courtney Evans, Brooks Warren, Grey Blaylock, and counselors Rene' Warren, DeAnna Blaylock, and Michael Spell.

17. Pleasant Valley Church, Mendenhall, recently licensed Jeremy Burnham, a student of William Carey University to the ministry. Shown are Burnham and Henry Freeman.



17. Burnham Licensed, Pleasant Valley Church, Mendenhall



16. Bible Drillers, Raymond Road Church, Jackson



11. RA Recognition, Union Church, Brookhaven



14. Deacon Ordination, Spring Hill Church, Waterford



15. Roe Ordained, First Church, Potts Camp

## REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Bay Springs Church, Abbeville: Homecoming, Oct. 8; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and gospel singing.

Brewer Church, Perry Association: Revival, Oct. 8-12; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Mark King, speaker; Terry Dewitt, music; Ken Ball, pastor.

Chunky Church, Newton Association: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 15-19; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing with the Ridgeways and the Rowzees; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Scott Vaughn, speaker; William Savell, music.

Ethel Church, Attala Association: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ronnie Tullos, Memphis, speaker; Charles Smith, interim pastor.

First Church, Chicora: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.;

Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Marcus Peagler, speaker; Sharon Moore, Kent Miller, Randy McCloud, music; David Roberson, pastor.

First Church Fannin, Brandon: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., 8, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Harold T. Bryson, Knoxville, Tenn., speaker; Allen Harris, Oxford, music.

First Church, Holuka: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., worship, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sammy Nuckolls, speaker; Melinda Kopp, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

Line Creek Church, Morton: Revival, Oct. 1-4; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bart Effinger, McAlester, Ok., speaker; Tal Vardaman, music; Paul Sanders, pastor.

McCool Church, Attala Association: Homecoming, Oct. 15; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mike Howell, speaker; Jim Ray, interim pastor.

Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle: Homecoming, Oct. 1; worship 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; former ministers of music providing leadership in worship.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale: Revival, Oct. 22-25; John Merck, speaker; Gordon and Donna Alford, music; Greg Barker, pastor; for information, call (601) 947-4875.

Spring Hill Church, Waterford: Homecoming, Oct. 8; singing, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Paul Middleton, Batesville, speaker.

Sunrise Church, Leake County: Revival, Oct. 8-11; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Taylor, Conehatta, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

Temple Church, Moss Point: Revival, Oct. 1-4; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Mixon, Dean Register, Fred Luter, and Rex Yancey, speakers; Alica Morris and Cross Way Quartet, music.



## MS POSITIONS

**GOODWATER BAPTIST CHURCH** is accepting resumes for a part-time Minister of Youth position and part-time Paid Nursery Worker position, through October 19, 2006. Send resumes to: 1313 Goodwater Road N.W., Magee, MS 39111.

**UNION WEST BAPTIST CHURCH, LAFAYETTE COUNTY** is seeking a minister of music. Please send resume to Union West Baptist Church, 794 CR Oxford, Miss. 38655, attn: Bro Derek Starnes or call (662) 234-1338.

**WALKER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Rankin**, is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to Walker Hill Baptist Church, 1110 Wade Patrick Road, Brandon, MS 39042.

## College News

1. Rick and Nedra Carter, parents of the late Rebekah Carter, 2001 graduate of the Mississippi College School of Nursing, have established the Rebekah Carter Scholarship Fund in her memory. Carter is Associate Pastor of First Church, Laurel, and has served in the position of Minister of Music in state churches, most recently in Greenville. The Carters served as missionaries to Argentina for six years. Rebekah Carter was an exemplary and distinguished student at MC. She received two of the highest honors a student can achieve at Mississippi College in her senior year: the MC Hall of Fame and Miss Mississippi College. She was on the Dean's List all four years and was elected Student Body Homecoming 2001 Maid of Honor. She was the recipient of many other honors, as well. Guidelines of the scholarship state that the earnings will be used for student scholarship aid. Recipients will be selected from students who are majoring in any major at Mississippi College with the intent of using their degree to further the Kingdom of God and the student must display the ideals of Mississippi College. For more information contact the Office of Advancement, Box 4005, Clinton, MS 39058.



Carter

2. Eleven students were honored recently as William Carey University Scholars at a formal dinner held in their honor. These students were awarded the most prestigious scholarship award package offered by the university. The WCU Scholars are Aaron Brooks of Citronelle, Ala.; Kyle Chittenden of Ellisville; Jacob Extine of Petal; Anthony Geisen of Vinemont; Justin Gunter of Wiggins; Tae-Young Hong of South Korea; Elias Jarrell of Picayune; Seth Jones of Carriere; Marisa Livengood of Picayune; Jessica Rowell of Vossburg; and Eric Woods of Wesson.
3. An art exhibit opening reception by nationally recognized watercolor artist Tommie Hollingsworth-Williams will be held September 28 from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. The exhibit will run through Sept. 28 through Oct. 20. The gallery is open daily from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and admission is free to the public. For more information call (601)318-6192.
4. Mississippi College alumni and friends are invited to attend Homecoming Weekend, Nov. 13-14. The theme for this year's event is The Way We Were, The Way We Are, The Way We Will Be. Highlights of the weekend begin Friday with various class reunions, a mid-day golf tournament, and the annual Follies that evening. Saturday's festivities begin in the morning with the Homecoming Parade at 9:15 a.m., immediately followed by the Alumni Association Awards Brunch. Tour the campus and visit the open houses scheduled by various departments throughout the day. Game kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. at Robinson-Hale Stadium where LaGrange will face the Choctaws. A complete schedule of events can be found on the Alumni page of the Mississippi College website, [www.mc.edu/alumni](http://www.mc.edu/alumni), or by calling Alumni office directly, (601)925.3257.
5. Mississippi College will dedicate the newly renovated Aven Hall auditorium on the school's Clinton campus at 7:30 p.m. on October 6. The auditorium will be named in honor of Jean Pittman Williams, an MC alumna and committed supporter of the arts in the Jackson community and to her alma mater. There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.

## State Changes

Wayne Meeks, minister of music at First Church, Waynesboro, has retired after 44 years of ministry. He has served First Church since 1980. He and his wife Marsha have three children, Bobby, Melody, and Billy, and four grandchildren. Christian reside in Roundaway.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JESUP, GEORGIA** is seeking a full-time minister of education/administrator. Seminary trained, experience in administration, basic computer knowledge, organizational skills and ability to handle multiple tasks. Mail resume to FBC, attn: Ron Garner, P.O. Box

1115, Jesup, GA 31598 or email [sara-garner@bellsouth.net](mailto:sara-garner@bellsouth.net). Or call Ron Garner at (912) 588-0177.

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**CHILDREN'S MINISTER: FREEDOM BAPTIST CHURCH, LAUREL, MISS.** We are open to either a full-time minister of children and education or part-time minister of children. Send resumes by fax: (601)428-1331 or email: [eelmit@bellsouth.net](mailto:eelmit@bellsouth.net).

**LOUIN BAPTIST CHURCH** invites you to our Centennial Celebration the weekend of October 1, 2006, call (601) 739-3707.

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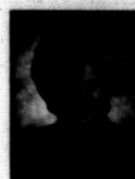
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## Convention Schedule (cont'd from page 1)

Prayer		Committee on Nominations Report	
Served as MBC President 1986-1987		Hal Bates	
8:50 Bible Treasure	Frank Gunn	Time, Place & Preacher	Lloyd Sweatt
9:10 Report of Education Commission	James Shaddix	Committee Report	Greg Warnock
9:15 Memorial Service	Willie Greer	Resolutions Committee Report	Clarence Cooper
9:25 Choral Praise	Frank Harmon	Miscellaneous Business	Doran Bugg
9:30 Introduction of College Presidents	Blue Mountain College Chorale	Congregational Praise	Ken Rhodes
9:40 Blue Mountain College Report	Clarence Cooper	Missions Mobilization	Blue Mountain College Chorale
9:50 Testimony	Bettye R. Coward	Choral Praise	Fred Luter
10:05 Business Session	Phil Hanberry	Message	Gene Henderson
Adoption of 2007 Budget	Clarence Cooper	Benediction	Served as MBC President 2004-2005
	Scott Wiggers		

### EVANGELISTS NEEDED

Editor:

I fully agree with the writer concerning our need for evangelists in our churches today (August 24 issue, page two). Truly there is a desperate need for revival among believers.

However, I fear revival will not come until equal time is given to the danger of refusing to accept God's offer of forgiveness. It is glorious to reflect upon God's goodness and mercy, but failure to present the alternative results in the preaching of a half-gospel.

Hell is a reality and should be presented without fear or apology. Christians need to be reminded what they have been saved from, and the lost need to be warned of what lies ahead of them by continued rebellion against God.

I fear that many in the church have not fully understood that Jesus Christ took God's judgment on sin upon Himself so that believers could live victorious and productive lives for Him. Christians are to demonstrate His love by helping other believers grow spiritually and by leading unbelievers to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We want to see the lost saved, but unless God's messengers preach both the glory of God's grace and the horror of hell there will be no revival in the church — or a great harvest of souls.

This is the work of an evangelist. Through him God

speaks to the hearts of believers and sinners alike, warning them to take His Word seriously, to repent and confess their sin, and come to Him for forgiveness and restoration.

Martha L. Carpenter  
Memphis

### REVERENT SETTING

Editor:

In a recent article in The Baptist Record, Dale Hudson, children's minister at First Church in Springdale, Ar., was quoted as saying, "Stained-glass windows aren't really appropriate for leading kids." Many a child — including myself — received Christ in such a setting as he described.

We heard the powerful and undiluted truth from God's own words, delivered by passionate and dedicated ministers. We were baptized in the same baptisteries as the adults used. It was a reverent, holy, and joyful time for each of us. Even as children, we understood the importance of the occasion. Throughout our lives we often reflect on that special time and realize the magnitude of its importance now more than we did then.

How can there be any comparison between the mighty moving of God's Holy Spirit and someone's theme park version? Have we become seekers

of pleasure rather than seekers of God? How can children hear God with so much confusion going on around them?

In our zest to reach people, we are losing that personal interaction with others. Prayer and God's Word administered by loving and dedicated Christians are appropriate tools for leading children or people of any age to Christ.

Mary Broome  
Sumrall

### DISAGREE WITH WRITINGS

Editor:

It seems that ever since your tirade on the casinos I have disagreed with your writings. Now, I was going to write you in regards to what I thought was a horrible piece that you wrote about Mel Gibson. He is/claims to be a follower of Christ and you of all people hung him out to dry.

Then today I open up the Record and see the unbelievable way you judge Madonna, George Clooney, Natalie Maines, and Brad Pitt. I wonder if you have even listened to the most recent Dixie Chicks CD. (By the way, I know you won't print this; because of this I wanted the associate editor and a church member to know of my writing to you.) If you had listened to the disc you would realize it is a very spiritual musical recording. One song

even sings of the hope of us as believers living in peace.

Why do you rant so much and focus on the negative? Once again the fundamentalist Baptist mentality sets itself on a pedestal and says, "Look at us. We are better than you and if you don't believe the way we do, then you are wrong."

Over and over Jesus is quoted as telling us to pray for our enemies. How about writing something along those lines? Yes, praying for those who do us wrong and yes, allowing God to change them through the Holy Spirit and not the unholy spirit of which your writings show no grace.

John Brashier, pastor  
Calvary Church, Jackson

### BUILD, DON'T DESTROY

Editor:

It seems as though one of our churches is the main topic of discussion in many newspapers. All I am hearing is negative feedback and nothing positive. I'm writing this letter so people will know there are good things happening at Iuka Baptist Church. Souls are being saved and the church is growing spiritually each week.

I am amazed at some of the newspapers for choosing only to publish bad news, the majority of which is incorrect. One would think they would print both sides of the story and not just one. Romans 8:28 says, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God; those who are called according to His purpose (HCSB)."

I just want people and the newspapers to know that Iuka Baptist Church is alive and doing a great work for the Lord. Our goal should be to build churches rather than trying to destroy them.

Bobby Cobb, Missions Dir.  
Tishomingo Association  
Tishomingo



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## Accommodations for 171st Annual Mississippi Baptist Convention October 31 – November 1, 2006 First Baptist Church, Jackson

Hotel/Motel rates effective October 29-31, 2006.  
All rates are per night and plus tax. When making reservations,  
be sure to ask for Mississippi Baptist Convention rate.

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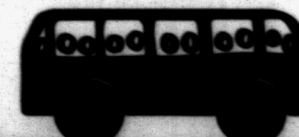
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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

SEPT. 8 - 24, 2006

### HONORS

Friendship SSC, Bush Hill BC  
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee  
Staff at Central BC-Marshall  
Channel of Blessings SSC  
Central BC  
Yalobusha Baptist Association  
Tina Tice Treasures  
Miss Molly Adams  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Margaret Barber  
Ms. Grace McMillin  
David & Nancy Shivers  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Rysning  
Miss Tylor Brumfield  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Marlene Cramer  
Eloise Crossley SSC  
FBC-Columbus  
Helen Crain  
Ms. Jessica H. Germany  
Miss Anne Marie DeLor  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Ruth Gaddis  
Helping Hands Hospice, Inc.  
Carolyn Gorton  
Channel SSC, FBC-Belton  
Miss Olivia Haskins  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Cane Johnson  
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Adam Karsney  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
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Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Jonathan Miller  
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Celle Moss  
Mrs. Jean S. Moss  
William M. Moss  
Mrs. Jean S. Moss  
Judy Murray  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Billy Newman  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Miss Charly Ott  
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Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Miss Sarah Suggs  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
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Mrs. Francis Smith  
Easter SSC, Whitesand  
BC-Prentiss  
Chris Stewart  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Matthew Stewart  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Miss Randall Stone  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Steven Swaffin

Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Truitt  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Farris  
Mr. & Mrs. Bessie Verell  
The Jim Maccaroni Family  
Bradley Wall  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Miss Shelly Wallace  
Mrs. Kathy Allford  
Freddie Young  
Mrs. Kathy Allford

### MEMORIALS

Billy Ruth Amburn  
Mrs. Charles F. Wadsworth  
Dr. Walter Anderson  
Rev. & Mrs. Allen H. Mapp Jr.  
Beale Arrington  
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges  
Cliff Bailey  
Village Pharmacy  
Mr. & Mrs. Leola E. Brown  
Greg, Kristen & Betty Jo Schmidt  
Mrs. Estelle Barlow  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted West  
Mr. John Bolls  
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee  
Brook Best  
Mrs. Neil H. Bourland  
Ruth Butler  
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges  
Kenneth Butwell  
Mrs. Frances A. Hart  
Mr. Lanny Buster Bradford  
The Babington Family  
Windy & Bill Dowdle  
Mark Bruffy, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Hale Singletary  
Janie Brumfield  
Wendal & Sue (Hall) Simmons  
Pauline Carter Britt  
Cecilia, Tom & Thomas Fraschillo  
Mrs. Maude Britton  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Lynk  
Mr. Billy Brown  
Deer Creek Baptist Church  
Mrs. Ruth Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Lee  
Lauren Brubaker  
Ms. Savannah W. Kellam  
Peter Brown  
Mrs. Vernie McGraw  
Mrs. Mary Bryant  
Mrs. Hazel M. Poe  
Blaine Buckley  
Mission City Men's Softball League  
Harold (Bud) Burch  
Mrs. Cynthia J. Eare  
Jewel L. Butler  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip R. Hilson  
Mr. Ben Callahan, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene D. Sancier  
Michael "Mac" Campbell  
Ms. Katie K. Holden  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Owens  
Mrs. Ann Carpenter  
Crescent Baptist Church  
Men's SSC, Crestview BC  
Mr. Jimmy Carter  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen  
Mrs. Evelyn Caruthers  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Allen  
Otha E. Cady  
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip R. Hilson  
Mr. Everett S. Cobb  
Mr. & Mrs. Milton H. Mitchell  
Grady Cook  
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Mr. Joe Cook  
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Ms. Faye W. Holyfield  
Mrs. Joyce Dalton  
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Raymond Fleming  
Ms. Pauline V. Cramer  
Ms. Mary E. Fleming  
Ms. Ruth M. Fleming  
Mrs. Jonathan Powell  
Mrs. Betty J. Jordan  
Mrs. Elizabeth Gumbel  
Miss Sue & Hettie E. Williams  
Mr. Wayne Gandy  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
Mrs. Sue Gaudin  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Lee  
Mr. Richard Hanson  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Lee

Rev. Joe Little and son Bryce brought pizza and cottage gifts to Garrison Cottage. Bryce asked his friends and family to bring cash donations to help meet the needs of The Baptist Children's Village in lieu of gifts at his recent birthday party. Rev. Joe Little is pastor of Lula Baptist Church in Jackson.

Richard Hanson  
Mr. Clarence M. Shannon  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry N. Stevens  
Don M. Harless  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Jordan  
Ella Harrington  
Frankie & Norman Jenkins  
Robert Hervey  
Jo & Jimmie Smith  
Charlotte Holland  
Echo SSC, FBC-McComb  
Gladys Homan  
Mrs. Gail Kirkland  
Mr. Clyde Hoyt  
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee  
Mrs. Jeanne Mae Owens Jager  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker  
Karen Jelfert  
Ms. Jewell Tammie  
Mrs. Grace Johnson  
Ms. Sarah W. Barrett  
Mr. Bill Jordan  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Mrs. Leola Livingston  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Lee  
Charles Lovens  
Ms. Fannie L. Doolittle  
William P. "Billy" Mahan  
Ms. Nedra M. Pickle  
Mrs. Doris M. Holman  
Don "Dum Man" Mangold  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
Mr. Ralph McCoy  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benson  
Mrs. Dot C. Chaste  
Bob & Doris McCain  
Hardy McCullough  
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Johnson  
James McLendon  
Mary & Morris Samuels

Shirley H. Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Azlin  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Moore  
Walter & Mickey Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Webb  
Beth Mink  
Mr. Jo Beth Burkheimer & Family  
Mrs. Arlene Moore  
Shagahat Baptist Church  
Mr. Milton V. Newton  
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Mrs. Sally Norris  
Deer Creek Baptist Church  
Dorcas Palmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary P. Hollimon  
David E. Patterson, II  
Ms. Opal L. Smith  
Ms. Loretta Patterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Kirby  
Jimmy Dale Pickett  
Hope SSC, FBC-Louisville  
Austin Randall  
Mrs. Doris R. Young  
Mrs. Allen Rhine  
Springfield Baptist Church  
Lydia SSC, Springfield BC-Morton  
Katherine Routh  
Mr. & Mrs. Billie Lipscomb  
James Dale Roberts  
Fred, Shirley & Keith Conner  
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Mr. & Mrs. John L. Dagan  
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Mrs. Frances A. Hart  
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Paul H. Shultz, Sr.  
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Pat Staples  
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges

Mr. Pete Stewart  
Mrs. Lillian G. Hayward  
Alton Perry Summerlin  
The Grover Summerlin Family  
Miriam Summers  
Topiaw Baptist Church  
Mrs. Eleanor Thoball  
The Brownlows  
Howard & Inez Treadway  
Major & Linda Treadway  
Ida Mae Vaughn  
Shagahat Baptist Church  
Davis Walker  
Jo & Jimmie Smith  
Ray Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay  
Mr. Robert (Bob) N. Walters  
Mrs. Louise D. Williams  
Sally Helmer & Family  
Laverna Ward  
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges  
Bert Bullock & Family  
Mr. Paul Watson, III  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan  
Amy & Michael Watson  
Lester & Dotie Harrington  
Mrs. Norma West  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Doolittle  
Mr. Lee Benge Whedee, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mangold  
Virginia S. White-Deverlin  
Mrs. Shirley Hewitt  
Mr. Jack Thomas Willis, Sr.  
Rickey & Frances Deffenbaugh  
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Mrs. Lillian G. Hayward  
Lewis Edward Whit, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Nichols  
Mrs. Vera Yarn  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell



Mr. James Smith of Stonewall Church, Shivers, recently presented Dr. Rory Lee, BCV Executive Director, with a donation of \$909.64 in pennies and other cash donations to support The BCV ministry from the church. Mr. Smith told the story of hearing a missionary speak in his church over 40 years ago. The missionary gave everyone a penny and told the people that if they would give their pennies to missions they could make a difference in the world. Since then, Mr. Smith has collected his pennies and given them to mission efforts through his church. He chose to share his latest collection with the children of The Baptist Children's Village.

## Attention All Campbell's Labels Collectors



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The Baptist Children's Village needs 1.5 million UPC Codes from eligible products to acquire a mini van. We have already banked about 133,000 so we welcome all the help you

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For a list of the "Eligible Products" you can email Chrystelle Thames at cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com or call us at 601-922-2242.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Take Hold of Truth

1 Timothy 1:3-7, 12-20

By Arthur Story

One Sunday morning a few years ago I saw an interesting bumper sticker on the car in front of me. In big bold letters it said, "Worship the Creator, Not the Creation." My initial thought was "Yeah, I'm with you!" Then I read the rest of the bumper sticker. In smaller lettering it had the name of a false religion and encouraged readers to find one of its local houses of worship. We may not be quick to admit it, or even recognize it at times, but the world is at our doorstep. We don't have to travel to other nations to be exposed to diverse worldviews. The growing influence of world religions, sects, and cults can even be seen in our beloved "Bible Belt." This is why lessons like this week's study on clinging to the truth are so

essential for the church today. We need to be diligent in guarding against false teachings from every source.

Paul's initial instruction concerning guarding the truth is to identify false teaching. This can be easy or difficult depending on how spiritually mature we are and what is being taught. Those teachings that are outside of the body Christ, like other world religions, are easier to identify. When someone involved in another world religion starts talking about reincarnation and an endless string of lives on this earth its apparent he's teaching a lie (Hebrews 9:27).

It's a little more difficult to identify false teaching when it comes from inside the church. This is why it is essential that every believer understand sound doctrine. We all need to

Story

be prepared to correct false teaching (verse 3) and be able to recognize pointless speculations (verse 4) that are not a part of God's plan. Tragically the advancement of mass media has helped to create confusion in the life of the church by giving false teachers, who build their ministries around such speculations, an avenue to communicate their messages. As Paul points out, such false doctrine leads to fruitless discussion (verse 6) rather than to love, a good conscience, and faith (verse 5).

The second instruction Paul gives concerning guarding the truth is our need to stand on the gospel of grace. Paul highlights the grace of God in his own salvation in Christ by recounting a general overview of his own sinfulness (verses 12-14). Paul clearly articulates that his salvation and call to ministry were not the result of a stellar life but rather an incredible act of God's grace. This is a stark contrast to the false teach-

ers of Paul's day as well as those of our own. A cursory look at those who engage in fruitless speculation (verse 4) today reveals a lack of the humility demonstrated by Paul. Many of today's false teachers reveal themselves in their arrogance. Their attitudes are similar to those of some professional athletes. These false teachers think too highly of themselves and their God-given abilities. They fail to recognize their own sinfulness and dependence on God and so they pursue their own clever ideas rather than God's plan.

Paul further expounds on our need to stand on the gospel of grace by pointing out the centrality of Christ in God's plan and in his own life (verses 15-17). Paul states that the fact that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" is "trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance" (verse 15). As we know from Scripture, apart from Christ there is no salvation (Acts 4:12), therefore when making determinations about the value of a particular teaching or teacher we need to start

by understanding what they teach about Christ.

The final instruction Paul gives concerning guarding the truth is our need to contend for the truth. A commitment to sound doctrine needs to be demonstrated in our willingness to defend the truth. To do this, we need to know what we believe and trust God as we live out those beliefs (verse 19). To do less than this is to set ourselves up for "shipwreck" (verse 19). Our faith in God and our adherence to a good conscience established on lived out biblical doctrine should serve as our GPS in life. Following these will help us avoid the hazards of false doctrine that lead to an abandonment of God's plan to pursue myths, genealogies, and empty speculations (verse 4).

Paul's instruction in 1 Timothy should motivate each of us to ensure that our faith is grounded in the gospel of grace so that we can avoid the dangers of false teachings that lead to a shipwrecked faith.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Seek Forgiveness

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

By Cyndi Grace

"Thank you for our many blessings and forgive us of our many sins. Amen!"

Does this sound familiar? It is a simple prayer of confession...or is it? Is it actually seeking forgiveness? In truth, isn't this just a habitual wrap-up of our daily actions so we can fall asleep?

God calls each believer to a life of purity and holiness and this "blanket" confession does little to accomplish that. Although the word "sin" (separation from God) was accomplished at the cross we daily commit "sins" (wrong-doings) which need to be confessed to restore our fellowship with God and to make us ready for His service.

Isaiah 6:1-8 illustrates authentic confession. As Isaiah saw the purity and holiness of Yahweh,

he realized who he was in comparison; it caused him to "woe." In Isaiah's face-down position, God revealed his sin specifically and when confessed, Isaiah was cleansed and enabled to serve God mightily. Have you "woed" lately? That is what confession is about... looking honestly at yourself and where you are in your journey to holiness. God will, when we spend time in His Word and on our faces before Him, reveal the specific things that are keeping us from living this life abundant. Jesus had this to say in Luke 18:9-14a.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The

Grace

Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get."

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God." (NIV)

Are we confident of our own righteousness or in God's righteousness? The Pharisees were confident in being obedient to the law and became prideful. Leaning on our own righteousness will cause us to look down on others but authentic confession under God's righteousness humbles us and makes us ready for service.

Our focal verse (4:16) states that we are to "come boldly to the throne of grace." "Come

boldly" in the original language means keep on coming! This is not a one-time thing but a daily exercise. This practice of regular confession keeps our relationship with God fresh and our relationship with others in harmony. What if after we visited our dentist for a cleaning we no longer felt we had to brush or floss, declaring our plaque was taken away! We would soon notice our mouths were not as fresh; continuing to ignore daily oral hygiene would cause others to notice and stand way back! It is the same with our daily confessions... with them we will remain fresh and clean in our relationship with God and also with others.

Perhaps these guidelines will help:

• **Where We Confess.** (vs.4:16) We confess at the throne of God for this is the only place we see who we really are in comparison to God. When we confess on our own turf we can look pretty good. Come to throne boldly is the call! We can do this without fear because it is a throne of mercy and grace.

• **Why We Confess.** (vs. 5:2) We confess because it keeps us from drifting father astray from God. Remember we are like sheep and once we begin going in a direction, we will continue in it unless we intentionally turn. Confession is the means of keeping us on the right track.

• **Why We Can Confess.** (5:9-10) We are able to confess because Jesus understands what we are going through and took our sin upon Himself as our High Priest. Our wrongdoings are seen by the Father through Jesus' blood as white as fresh driven snow because Christ paid the final price for our sins and continues to intercede for us!

So, confession clears the way for freedom; it eases our conscience and lightens our cares. When we confess we are not bound by guilt and shame. It allows us to answer immediately God's call of, "Who shall I send?" with the response of "Here am I send me!" as Isaiah did.

Grace is a women's conference speaker and women's ministry director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

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**Record**

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# Fish 'tremendously impressed' by NAMB commitment

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Roy Fish has talked extensively with employees at the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and as the entity's interim president he voiced his impressions Sept. 19 to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee.

"I tell you I am tremendously impressed by what I find," Fish said during the EC's meeting in Nashville, Tenn. "I find a people who are focused. Our agency has been assigned a task by the Southern Baptist Convention, and I find that the people who work at NAMB are tremendously cognizant of what that task is, and they're deeply committed to the fulfillment of it."

Fish, distinguished professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, said employees at NAMB's Atlanta-area offices are "unquestionably focused" on sharing the Gospel with people across North America and on beginning new churches, averaging 33 a week last year.

"You look at it sometimes and it almost appears to be impossible," Fish said of the challenges, "but I've discovered that the commitment at the board is up to the task, and I find that we are going about our work with a passion that I don't know that I've ever seen in a group of people that work in a denominational agency before."

A spirit of optimism also is evident at NAMB, Fish continued.

"I know we face a task that is extremely formidable, but we believe that the God who assigns us the task is bigger than the task itself," he said.

What has impressed him most in his brief time leading NAMB, Fish said, is that employees are aware that "even the best human effort cannot accomplish what ought to be accomplished. There's a dependence on the Holy Spirit and a look to Him as the provider of that which we need in our weaknesses, giving us His strength."

"We think we've been assigned a task which on paper appears to be almost impossible, but we believe that which is apparently impossible can be achieved by the promised presence of the supernatural," Fish said.

NAMB employees are particularly creative and innovative, Fish recounted, and they're "not afraid to color outside of the lines."

"They're willing to run some risks," he said. "I assure you that with changes all around us we have no intention of tampering with the ageless message of Jesus Christ. The message does not change, but we're aware of the fact that we're living in a new century."



Fish

We're aware of the fact that we're witnessing to the people of this age and not their great-grandfathers."

Despite the changes going on at NAMB following the resignation of a president earlier this year, Fish said the board is anchored.

"No, not anchored as far as being idle in the port, but we are anchored to Jesus Christ," Fish said. "We are anchored to an inerrant Bible. We want you to know too that we are geared to the 21st century of which we're a part."

Meanwhile, Kansas pastor Terry Fox has resigned as chairman of the NAMB presidential search committee.

Bill Curtis, chairman of NAMB's board of trustees, shared news of the resignation with search committee

members as they met in Atlanta on Sept. 19-20. Curtis named Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Church in Owensboro, Ky., the committee's new chairman. Fox notified Curtis of his decision September 6.

Fox cited his need to focus more attention on his new church start in Wichita as reason for the change. He will remain a member of the search committee.

However, Fox's former church, Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan., issued a statement Sept. 18 citing financial issues as one of the reasons for the departure of Fox.

The statement also noted that Fox had threatened to sue. "A threat in front of 50 deacons and ministerial staff was made by Rev. Terry Fox of individuals who might say anything reflecting negatively on him," the statement recounted, referencing an Aug. 6 deacons' meeting after Fox had announced his resignation that morning to the congregation.

Thus, the church's two-paragraph statement noted, the deacons would "shield innocent parties and families the embarrassment due to their testimonies."

"Multiple discoveries from testimonies involving many witnesses, both written and verbal, reflected negatively on the scriptural qualifications expected of a pastor," the statement reported from the Aug. 6 deacons' meeting.

"Careful examination of the church's financial records revealed reallocation of Cooperative Program funds. A portion of the reallocation was used for a radio program — not affiliated with the church. This led to our agreement that it was wise for him to resign," the statement concluded.

Cooperative Program funds are gifts sent by churches to support area-wide, state, national and international Baptist missions and ministries.

Fox rejected any notion of financial mismanagement on his part. In a statement to Baptist Press, Fox said allegations "have been made, but never proven."

"I never did any spending of church finances without proper authority and accountability," Fox said in his statement. "Even though my wife and I had requested an opportunity to answer any of their concerns, with the deacon body or the church body, this was never allowed. Because of the desire of some of the leadership for pastoral change we agreed to resign so that the Immanuel family could move on in their ministry. We are praying for Immanuel. My hope is that they would pray for me, my family, and Summit Church."

Fox served as NAMB chairman from 2003-04.

## Missouri board quashes speculation over exec. director's status

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP) — After more than six hours of discussion in executive session on Sept. 22, the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) Executive Board affirmed the MBC's executive director, the chairman of the nominating committee, and the works of that committee and all other MBC committees.

The affirmations come after speculative reports in the media and e-mails circulating around Missouri prior to the meeting that conservatives in the MBC are divided over the future of MBC Executive Director David Clippard, and that a vote to dismiss him was possible.

One association, Fellowship Baptist Association, went so far at its fall meeting as to issue a resolution affirming Clippard amid the circulating rumors.

Such speculation proved untrue. The discussion did not center on Clippard's dismissal, and no motions or votes to dismiss were taken. Instead, the executive board affirmed Clippard, calling him "God's man to be our executive director" and going on to say that "we rejoice in all that unifies us to the glory of God."

The executive board also affirmed



Clippard

Roger Moran, the acknowledged leader of the conservative resurgence in the

state, and his work as chairman of the MBC's nominating committee. It is the nominating committee that recommends people to fill slots on the convention's various board agencies and committees. The board went on to affirm the works of "all Missouri Baptist Convention committees this year."

The meeting was presided over by MBC President Ralph Sawyer, pastor of First Church in Wentzville, Mo., and was attended by 46 of the board's 53 members. Also in attendance were five invited ex-presidents of the convention: Monte Shinkle, pastor, Concord Church, Jefferson City; Kenny Qualls, pastor, First Church, Arnold; Gary Taylor, pastor, First Church, O'Fallon; Mitch Jackson, pastor, Miner Church, Sikeston; and David Tolliver, MBC associate executive director.

Two other former presidents, now on the board, were also in attendance: Jay Scribner, recently retired pastor, First Church, Branson; and Robert Collins, pastor, Plaza Heights Church, Blue Springs.

Six board members were not in attendance and one seat remains vacant following the resignation of Ken Jones, who recently accepted a pastorate in Virginia.

Following is the press release issued by the MBC Executive Board on Sept. 25:

"Upon completion of our special called executive board meeting on Friday, September 22, 2006, the executive board of the Missouri Baptist Convention states that it investigated concerns brought to the executive board. We concluded and decided three things. First, we affirm that Dr. David Clippard is God's man to be our executive director. Second, we affirm Roger Moran, chairman, and the works of the nominating committee and of all Missouri Baptist Convention committees this year. Third, we rejoice in all that unifies us to the glory of God, i.e. our submission to the Lordship of Christ, our faithfulness to sound Christian doctrine, our commitment to Biblical authority, our support of the Missouri Baptist Convention executive board staff, our appreciation of the conservative resurgence in the Missouri Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention, and our desire to fulfill both the Great Commission and the Great Commandment of Jesus Christ."